

# METHODS AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING EARLY RESPONSES FROM A REMOTE DATA CACHE

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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

According to the present invention, methods and apparatus are provided for increasing the efficiency of data access in a multiple processor, multiple cluster system. Mechanisms for allowing a variety of transactions to complete locally are implemented  
10 by providing remote data caches associated with the various clusters in the system. The remote data caches receive data and state information for memory lines held in remote clusters. If information for responding to a request is available in a remote data cache, a response with a completion indicator is provided to the requesting processor. The completion indicator allows the request to be met without having to probe local or  
15 remote nodes.